

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HELSIN 00365 210815Z

12

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 OPR-01 A-01 ABF-01 PER-01 /036 W

----- 124576

R 210723Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8317

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DEPARTMENT PASS ALSO EUR/EX

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, ECON, PINT, AFSP, FI

SUBJECT: WAGE NEGOTIATIONS AT CRITICAL PHASE

1. NINETEEN SEVENTY FOUR GENERAL WAGE SETTLEMENT, WHILE PROVIDING FOR WAGE INCREASES IN 1975 AS WELL AS 1974, ALSO CALLED FOR REVIEW OF 1974 AGREEMENT EARLY IN 1975 TO SEE IF INCREASES SCHEDULED FOR 1975 SHOULD BE MODIFIED. THIS REVIEW BEGAN AT END OF JANUARY UNDER GUIDANCE OF KEIJO LIINAMAA OF LABOR MINISTRY AND HAS NOW REACHED CRITICAL PHASE.

2. EMPLOYERS' AND WORKERS' REPRESENTATIVES BY FEBRUARY 16 HAVING FAILED TO AGREE ON CONTINUING OR REVISING CENTRALIZED 1974 AGREEMENT, LIINAMAA PRESENTED MEDIATION PROPOSAL WHICH PROVIDED FOR SOMEWHAT HIGHER WAGE INCREASES IN 1975 FOR LOWER PAID WORKERS THAN SPECIFIED IN 1974 AGREEMENT, IN HOPES OF PRESERVING PRINCIPLE OF CENTRALIZED WAGE AGREEMENT COVERING VIRTUALLY ALL WORKERS IN FINLAND.

3. LIINAMAA MEDIATION PROPOSAL WAS INITIALLY ACCEPTED BY ALL MAJOR REVIEW TALK PARTICIPANTS EXCEPT FOR WHITE COLLAR WORKERS' REPRESENTATIVES, BUT BY FEBRUARY 19 SEVERAL INDIVIDUAL

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SENTATIVES, BUT BY FEBRUARY 19 SEVERAL INDIVIDUAL

UNIONS AFFILIATED WITH SAK REQUESTED SAK CONSENT
TO DENOUNCE 1974 CENTRALIZED AGREEMENT AND TO
GO THEIR OWN WAY IN NEGOTIATING WITH EMPLOYERS.
INDIVIDUAL UNIONS MUST ALL DECIDE BY FEBRUARY
28 WHETHER TO ACCEPT OR REJECT LIINAMAA PROPOSAL.

4. COMMENT: TOO EARLY TO TELL WHETHER FINLAND
MAY BE FACING PERIOD OF LABOR UNREST AS INDIVIDUAL
UNIONS TRY TO OUTDO EACH OTHER IN OBTAINING PAY
IMPROVEMENTS FOR THEIR MEMBERS. THERE IS GROWING
CONCERN ABOUT FINLAND'S ADVERSE PAYMENTS BALANCE
AND FOREIGN INDEBTEDNESS BUT IMMEDIATE CONCERN
IN GOF SEEMS TO BE FOR PRESERVING PRINCIPLE OF
CENTRALIZED WAGE SETTLEMENT. IF CENTRALIZED
SETTLEMENT REACHED, EMBASSY WILL BE UNDER PRESSURE
ASSURE MATCHING WAGE INCREASE FOR OUR
FINNISH EMPLOYEES.
KREHBIEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ANNUAL WAGE RATE, COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975HELSIN00365
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750062-0081
From: HELSINKI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750224/aaaaavkw.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 MAY 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <19 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WAGE NEGOTIATIONS AT CRITICAL PHASE
TAGS: ELAB, ECON, PINT, AFSP, FI
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006